# Research Designs Assignment

Purpose:   
Differentiate research designs, types of studies, and levels of evidence

Recognizing and differentiating the various types of research is key to identifying relevant evidence for a given clinical context. For this assignment, you will determine the research paradigm and research design for two studies on a similar topic. You will then practice a few short steps of the initial critical appraisal process.

To prepare for this assignment, you should:

* Read Chapter 2 in the textbook
* View all videos in Week 2 Lesson folder
* Complete the Week 2 Quiz
* Review Figures 1-6 and 1-7
* Review Table 2-1
* Review Figures 2-3 and 2-13 for examples of what your table below should look like
* Access the 2 sample research studies for this assignment and print or download to your computer.

Instructions:

1. Read the Introduction and Methods sections of each sample research study.
2. Complete the table below based on information you gather from the research articles. Each blank cell in the table should contain information specific to each study.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristic** | **Sample Study 1**  *(insert first author name and year here)* | **Sample Study 2**  *(insert first author name and year here)* |
| **Research paradigm** |  |  |
| **State the research or clinical question** |  |  |
| **General focus of the research** |  |  |
| **Research style** |  |  |
| **Temporal (time) Perspective** |  |  |
| **Research setting** |  |  |
| **Sampling method** |  |  |
| **Types(s) of data collected** |  |  |
| **Type of data analysis** |  |  |
| **Level of evidence (according to the evidence pyramid)** |  |  |

1. Complete the tables below for each study as the first step of critical appraisal.
   1. Provide the article reference (APA style) at the top of the table.
   2. In the “Rationale” sections, provide specific information/details from the study that addresses each question listed above it. Do not alter or delete any of the existing text in the table.
   3. Indicate your overall appraisal of the section of the study in the far right column based on your rationale.

**Sample Study 1:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Study Section** | **Content** | **Questions to ask** | **Appraisal**  **(Check one)** |
| First and/or last page of article | Authors’ names, credentials, affiliations and conflicts of interest | 1. Are the authors’ credentials and educational background appropriate to conduct this type of study? 2. Are the authors affiliated with any educational program, health institution, or practice settings? 3. Do the authors report any conflict of interest? 4. Is the style of research readily identifiable? | \_\_\_Strength  \_\_\_Limitation  \_\_\_Not Evident  \_\_\_Not Applicable |
| **Rationale:** | | | |
| First or last page of article | Funding Source | 1. Is the funding source clearly identified? 2. Is there potential for funding bias in this study? | \_\_\_Strength  \_\_\_Limitation  \_\_\_Not Evident  \_\_\_Not Applicable |
| **Rationale:** | | | |

**Sample Study 2:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Study Section** | **Content** | **Questions to ask** | **Appraisal**  **(Check one)** |
| First and/or last page of article | Authors’ names, credentials, affiliations and conflicts of interest | 1. Are the authors’ credentials and educational background appropriate to conduct this type of study? 2. Are the authors affiliated with any educational program, health institution, or practice settings? 3. Do the authors report any conflict of interest? 4. Is the style of research readily identifiable? | \_\_\_Strength  \_\_\_Limitation  \_\_\_Not Evident  \_\_\_Not Applicable |
| **Rationale:** | | | |
| First or last page of article | Funding Source | 1. Is the funding source clearly identified? 2. Is there potential for funding bias in this study? | \_\_\_Strength  \_\_\_Limitation  \_\_\_Not Evident  \_\_\_Not Applicable |
| **Rationale:** | | | |